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6

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GUARDING THE GLOBE™

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GUARDING THE GLOBE

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GUARDINGTHEGLOBE#6.October2011.PublishedbyImageComics,Inc.Officeofpublication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

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WELL DONE. A MASTERPIECE OF DEVASTATION AND **DEATH.**

A FINE VICTORY INDEED, SET. VERY FINE.

IS THIS THE SPOT FROM WHICH WE WILL SPREAD OUR EMPIRE?

NO. NOW THAT WE HAVE LAID WASTE TO THEIR CITY OF LIGHT, NEXT WE WILL REMOVE THEIR LAST HOPE.

WE GO TO WASHINGTON AND WE MURDER THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY IN THEIR BEDS, DRAGGING THEIR CORPSES BEFORE THE EYES OF THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE CITIZEN NOW KNOWS THAT WE ARE SERIOUS, BUT HE WILL NOT KNOW THAT WE ARE HIS MASTERS UNTIL HE HEARS THE BREAKING OF HIS BONES AND SEES THAT WE ARE THE ONES FEASTING ON THE MARROW.

NOW WE REMOVE ALL DOUBTS FROM THEIR MINDS-- THIS WORLD IS **OURS.**

NEVER.

NOT WHILE IT'S STILL OUR JOB TO GUARD IT.

JUST TRY TO PRY IT FROM OUR GRASP, WORMS.

KRAKK!

GLADLY.

JAPANDROID, WHAT'S THE PRELIMINARY SCAN TELLING YOU ON DEATH TOLL? HUNDREDS? THOUSANDS?

MILLIONS. NEAR TOTAL ANNIHILATION INSIDE THE CITY.

WRAMM!

KRAK!

THAT SETTLES IT THEN. NO HOLDING BACK.

BOOM! BOOM!

VAF!
VAF!
VAF!

KRAKOOM!

HOLY--!
LE BRUSIER
IS *PISSED!*

WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT?
THIS CITY IS HIS
HOME, AND THESE
MONSTERS HAVE
DESTROYED
IT!

TITAN! I'VE SEEN YOU STEAL...BREAK A FEW LEGS, BUT THIS--!

TO DESTROY THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY—TO MURDER THESE PEOPLE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

I MAY BE IN A LITTLE OVER MY HEAD-- BUT THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!

I'M SORRY, OLD FRIEND.

KNOCKOUT! OVER HERE! I COULD USE A HAND.

WHAM!

YOU GOT IT.

ALMOST TOO EASY.

I COULD HAVE STOOD TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME IN THAT FORM, MAYBE SET WILL LET ME KEEP HER AS A SLAVE.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, TEARING DOWN AN ENTIRE CITY SORT OF WORE ME OUT-- I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE FARING SO WELL HERE!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

NO WORRY.

LOTS MORE.

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW BULLETS TO STOP *THE WALKING DREAD!*

BTOW!

NICE TRY, HANDSOME--

--BUT YOU CAN'T HIT WHAT YOU CAN'T *CATCH!*

BOOM!

EEP!

NO ONE ESCAPES THE GAZE OF RED EYE, MY DEAR.

NO ONE.

BRZAP!

KEEP FIGHTING, TEAM! WE'VE GOT TO PRESS ON!

WHAT IS IT YOU EXPECT TO DO HERE? WE DESTROY A CITY AND YOU TRY TO WHAT-- *PUNCH* US?

YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE HOW OUT-MATCHED YOU ARE!

HE MIGHT HAVE A POINT, BRIT--THIS DRAGON IS HUGE! LOOK AT IT!

I WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU IN ROUGHLY THIRTEEN SECONDS, SHAPESMITH. I MUST FIRST DISPATCH THIS ARMORED... *JERK.*

VWOOPP!

THIRTEEN SECONDS?! YOU'RE AN *ARROGANT* LITTLE ROBOT. I ADMIRE THAT!

JUST... FALL DOWN ALREADY! FALL, DAMMIT!

SWAK!

YOU SEEM TO BE THE LEADER OF THESE HOPELESS CHILDREN.

PERHAPS WHEN THEY SEE ME CRUSH YOUR BODY, IT WILL FINALLY CRUSH THEM IN SPIRIT.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT...

...NOT BEING CRUSHED--

--IS KIND OF MY THING.

NO!

MY HELMET!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

NO! NO! NO!

YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING! YEARS OF WORK! YEARS OF PLANNING! ALL FOR NOTHING!!

YEARS SPENT TRAPPED BEHIND THAT HELMET, INHIBITING MY POWERS OF INFLUENCE AND CONTROL--ALL FOR NOTHING!

I'M SORRY, FATHER! I KNOW I'VE BROKEN THE RULES--IT WAS NO FAULT OF MY OWN, BUT I WILL ACCEPT MY PUNISHMENT!

I CAN STILL PROVE MYSELF WORTHY--I CAN STILL EARN YOUR RESPECT--!

FORFEITING THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE IS ILL ADVISED, YES... BUT SERIOUSLY-- WHAT THE HELL?

EH?

EVIDENCE SUGGESTS YOUR ABILITIES TO RENDER PEOPLE MOTIONLESS DO NOT AFFECT SYNTHETIC LIFE.

YOU? I'VE JUST BROUGHT TWO ARMIES TO A STANDSTILL WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WAVE OF MY HAND!

WHAT HOPE COULD A TINY, GIRLISH AUTOMATON HAVE OF EVEN GIVING ME A MOMENT'S PAUSE?

CALCULATING...

ODDS OF MY SUCCESS: 0.0001%.

ODDS OF MY SURRENDER: 0.0000%.

YOU CANNOT GRASP THE MOMENT IN WHICH YOU FACE ME, LITTLE ONE.

THE ANGUISH OF FAILURE BRINGS WITH IT A *RAGE*--A *FURY* UNLIKE ANYTHING THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

ALL THIS ANGER-- ALL THIS RAGE--

--DIRECTED AT YOU!

KRA-

OOM!

AND HERE IT ENDS. ALL MY FOES **DEFEATED**, BUT ALL MY GOALS UNATTAINED.

RE--RE-CALCULATING...

SLEEP.

ALL OF YOU.

ALL THESE YEARS, THESE **DECADES** OF WORK. AND I WAS SO CLOSE.

SO CLOSE.

AND NOW I SHALL BEGIN AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.

WHAT?

WHERE AM--?

...

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

--WAS SO DISORIENTED AT FIRST, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE-- DIDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. I STILL DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. MEMBERS OF THE ORDER MUST HAVE KNOWN ENOUGH TO FLEE BEFORE WE FULLY CAME TO.

THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE, CECIL.

AND WE'LL BE THERE TO--

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL ARE BACK, RETURNED FROM THE FLAXAN DIMENSION A COUPLE DAYS AGO... APPARENTLY THEY RULED THEIR EMPIRE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

AND SINCE TIME PASSES DIFFERENTLY IN THAT DIMENSION--THEY'RE ADULTS NOW, WHICH IS STRANGE, SEEING AS HOW WHEN THEY LEFT A MONTH AGO THEY WERE BOTH PRETEENS... AT LEAST THEIR BODIES WERE, I GUESS THEIR, I DON'T KNOW... ***BRAINS*** WERE MUCH OLDER...

IT'S ALL SO DAMN COMPLICATED AND--

OH, DON'T RUB IT IN, DON'T COME HERE NOW THAT I'M OFF THE TEAM AND TELL ME ABOUT ALL THE ***AWESOME*** STUFF THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

I'M LIKE-- THE BIGGEST ROBOT FAN EVER!

WHY ***ARE*** YOU HERE, ANYWAY?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS GETTING AT. ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL WERE IN KIDS' BODIES... AND HELL, LE BRUSIER IS TECHNICALLY ***SIX***. SO THERE'S THAT.

YOU'RE BASICALLY A WHOLE DIFFERENT SPECIES, AND WE REALLY COULD HAVE USED YOU IN PARIS... AND JUST TO FURTHER COVER OUR ASSES, CHILD LABOR LAWS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE...

YOU DON'T MEAN--!

YEAH-- *HUH--*

--THERE'S STILL A SPOT FOR YOU ON THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE...

THAT IS, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOUR PARENTS...

AS YOU CAN SEE BEHIND ME, THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT HAS ALREADY BEGUN, AND WE'LL BE REJOINING THE WORKERS AS SOON AS THIS PRESS CONFERENCE ENDS.

THE DESTRUCTION OF PARIS, FRANCE, IS AN EVENT THAT HAS SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT A LOSS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS COUNTRY'S BORDERS.

NEVER HAS IT BEEN MORE CLEAR, THAT WE ARE ONE WORLD, ONE COMMUNITY-- WE ALL SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD, BY COMING *TOGETHER.*

MY TEAM COMES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THIS GLOBE, AND TOGETHER, WE WILL BE EXPANDING OUR EFFORTS TO GUARD IT AND ITS CITIZENS.

WE COULDN'T STOP THIS TRAGEDY FROM OCCURRING, BUT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE PREPARED FOR ATTACKS ON SUCH A SCALE.

THAT IS OUR MESSAGE TODAY, THAT WE ARE *HERE.*

WE STAND BEFORE YOU, ASSEMBLED, AS A SHOW OF OUR STRENGTH, TO TELL THE WORLD, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU, WE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU...

...NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE CHALLENGE, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE ARE HERE TO STAY.

PLEASE, FATHER... FORGIVE ME. IT WAS NOT MY FAULT--IT WAS THE HUMAN, HE REMOVED MY HELMET, I WOULD NEVER--

YES, I KNOW THE RULES.

I MUST ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS, A TRIBUTE TO YOUR GLORY-- WITHOUT USING THE GIFT YOU BESTOWED UPON ME.

I WILL COMPLETE THIS TASK--THIS WORLD WILL CRUMBLE BEFORE ME. THE CITIZEN WILL FALL, THE WOMAN, THE CHILD, THE STRONG, THE WEAK-- **ALL** WILL PERISH AT MY HAND, PAVING THE WAY FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.

THIS WORLD WILL BE SOAKED IN THEIR BLOOD AS YOU EMERGE TO RULE WHAT REMAINS.

AS YOUR LOYAL SERVANT, I VOW NO MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES IT TAKES...

...I **WILL** SUCCEED.

GUARDING THE GLOBE

WRITE US AT: INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

Here we are, at the finish line.

Thank you so much for sticking with us during the whole ride. I've said in the letters columns of the past that this mini-series has been a learning experience, and I'm glad we have the last issue done, and ready for your consumption (with an extra two pages, to boot!). I want to take a moment to thank everyone who contributed to Guarding the Globe, from beginning to end: THANKS GUYS.

We've got plenty of letters, and I don't want to spend any time ranting, so I'm gonna dive right in...

Dear Kirkman, Cereno, Getty,

Focus, art, excitement...we lost em! Maybe it wasn't so bad... well, except for the art. See, this is what happens when you change names at the last minute before a series starts!! I'd either change the name back--to Guardians of the Globe--or to something new: World Guardians? Guardians? Who knows. But even if the Art suffered greatly this issue--you gotta love that Dog! What's his/ her name again?

Andrew J. Shaw

The dog is named Le Brusier! Vaffe! Vaffe!

Were the scheduling problems all because of a name change? Is this like some sort of Disney live action movie starring a young Lindsay Lohan or Hilary Duff, where we learn our lesson the comically hard way? #No

---

Hello,

Thank you for printing my very short letter in issue 5 of Guarding the Globe! I wanted to let you know that I often sign my name "Darren Hollander, DC" because I'm a chiropractor and "DC" stands for "Doctor of Chiropractic." (woot!) And, yes, my laughter was from being very impressed with Best Tiger, that guy is so awesome! Kudos to you and Mr. Walker.

Cory literally just patted himself on the back! What a goof!

And, while I'm here... I really enjoyed this series. The delay was rough, and the change in talent within single issues was also jarring. But it was all worth it. I love these characters, and it's a great story. And, also while I think Mr. Jackson is a very talented artist, I think I much prefer when Mr. Getty is on the inks. I really like the bright "animated" pages, vs. the darker "grittier" pages.

Finally, I thought it was so crappy that Marvel blocked you from using the name "Guardians of the Globe" (especially now that their Guardians of the Galaxy is finished). If you decide to do another series, or even an ongoing series, which I very much hope you do...if that embargo is still in effect, what about using the acronym "GOTG," ala "JLA?" Or, is there a problem with that too? Thanks!

Yours with the love of Chiropractic! -Darren Hollander, District of Colombia (of Orlando, FL) :P

Marvel did what to who?! GOTG as a title isn't a bad idea down the line, but considering this was their first outing... we needed a full title for recognition's sake.

And ^_^ back at ya.

Hello,

I thought I might add a suggestion, or two haha, but I was wondering, since you have the issues Guarding the Globe, is it possible you might do comics based off the original members, Darkwing, Aquarius, War Woman, Martian Man, Green Ghost, Red Rush, The Immortal and Black Samson, I think they should be known more like all the other heroes in Skybound, also, maybe bring Wolf-Man back, I know you've heard this quite often from others but I ask because there aren't many werewolf superheroes in the comic community. He showed a lot of potential to being a true mainstream comic, plus he would show much more potential, I mean, he was just an all around awesome character he could show a lot more potential to readers if he was involved in much more with everyone, plus if his series were to continue I'm sure you'd be able to fill all the gaps there were in the last issues, like the Dracula scene for example, plus show more what he's capable of with his powers as Elder Brood, anyways I truly appreciate you reading this, I'm sorry I couldn't be more descriptive with my suggestions but I hope you get the gist of what I'm saying.

Thanks for reading,
Joseph

Thanks for the suggestions! I love the original Guardians, and who knows- there could be something like that down the line.

As for more Wolf-Man, we hear ya!

Your Grace,

I don't want to sound egotistical, but I think I know the reason GtG #5 was late. As you said, "there's no political or proper way to answer the larger question of why this book it late". As Kirkman said, "Yeah, blame Sina". I guess it fall to me to address the elephant in the room, the true cause of the problem: I never sent a letter in after issue 4.

Oh, that's why!

You checked your e-mail patiently, wanting to send the book off to the printers and into the lucky hands of the throngs of eager fans. You couldn't wait for them to observe the Order's diabolical schemes, Brit's (and the roster's) volatility and

Outrun's er-- shall we say... let's just call her Outf*%# and leave it at that. Everything was in place except, of course, a contribution from me: the secret 3rd inker of the issue (except my ink comes in letter shapes on the last page). That must be it.

This would have never happened if I was co-editor. Just sayin'

Looking forward to the next one!
Cheers,

Brendan Flaherty
Saskatoon, CANADA

If you move from SASKATOON to Los Angeles, I will let you co-edit with me.

Don't move. I'm incredibly possessive.

Hey guys,

Thanks for making a great comic. I got in to "Guarding the Globe" after catching up with Invincible TPB. With one issue left of "Guarding the Globe" I wonder if my questions will get answered.

1. Is Le Brusier a dog with super powers, A man turned to a dog with super powers, or Pegasus's pet dog that happens to have super powers?

Ooh, Robert?

You'll just have to keep reading to find out. Either in Invincible or possibly in a continuation of this very series... hmmmmm.

2. Does Outrun have some daddy issues, or does she simply EMBRACE her desires?

From personal experience, I'd say both.

I see what you did there. Daddy issues...

3. Who will beat War Woman to a pulp? Because I want her dead. Cast Iron was cool, his name was cool, and the way he died was cool. If only he saved a cool person.

Keep up with the good work.

Jesse laite
palm bay, Florida

For twenty dollars I'll have Kris Anka draw you in beating the crap out of War Woman...

Dear Messrs. Grace and Kirkman,

Messrs. is the plural form of Mister, for those reading this and didn't know before, you have just learned a fun fact; and I never get to use that word, so it's fun for me too.

Anyway! I'm not writing to teach English to your audience. I have a question regarding Guarding the Globe.

I know you probably get this all the time, but I was just wondering why this comic is a miniseries and not an ongoing title. It's a great idea, completely overflowing with potential and possibilities. It feels like such a waste that all we get to see of it is this one story where two global forces representing good and evil clash, and then just ends. From then on it's just going to be brief cameos in the main Invincible comic, and MAYBE another miniseries or 2.

Come on! Don't you see what good idea an ongoing Guarding book would be? Everyone likes the team books! Avengers, Justice League, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, WildC.A.T.s, Top Ten, on and on it goes. I'm thinking you're probably a little too busy to write for it, which I can imagine is probably the case, what with all that's on your plate right now; Invincible, TWD, TWD tv show, being President guy of Image and all that. So, why not just hand the reins over to someone else? Let whoever wants to write and draw Guarding the Globe do just that? You retain creator rights, and Head Editor, or whatever the position is called where you make sure it keeps in continuity with all the stuff you do with Invincible.

This isn't your worst idea...

(eating a burrito made of candy, that was your worst idea)

(no, making an ironic PSA for pro-child labor and putting it on the internet... that was your worst idea)

Also, I want to note: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen is a series of mini-series.

Is there any reason why we can't have this? Because I love the idea of expanding the Image universe, and I think a big team book like this is the way to go.

Keep up the good work!
Shawn Williams

Thanks for listening to me blather!

It ain't blather if it's a good idea!

An ongoing Guarding the Globe series? Hmmmmm...

Again, thanks to all, most importantly: thank you Chris Giarrusso for an excellent backup this issue. I hope that down the line we get a one-shot of his strips. An editor can dream!

See you soon!

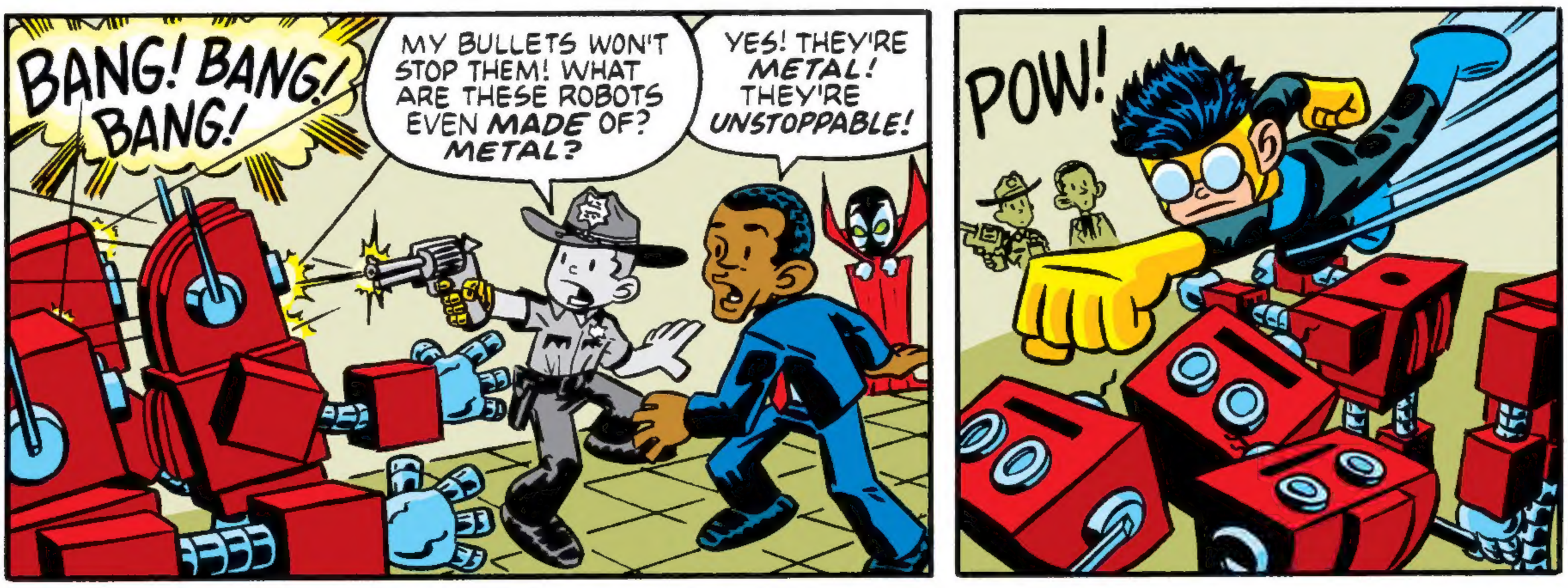
-Sina Grace

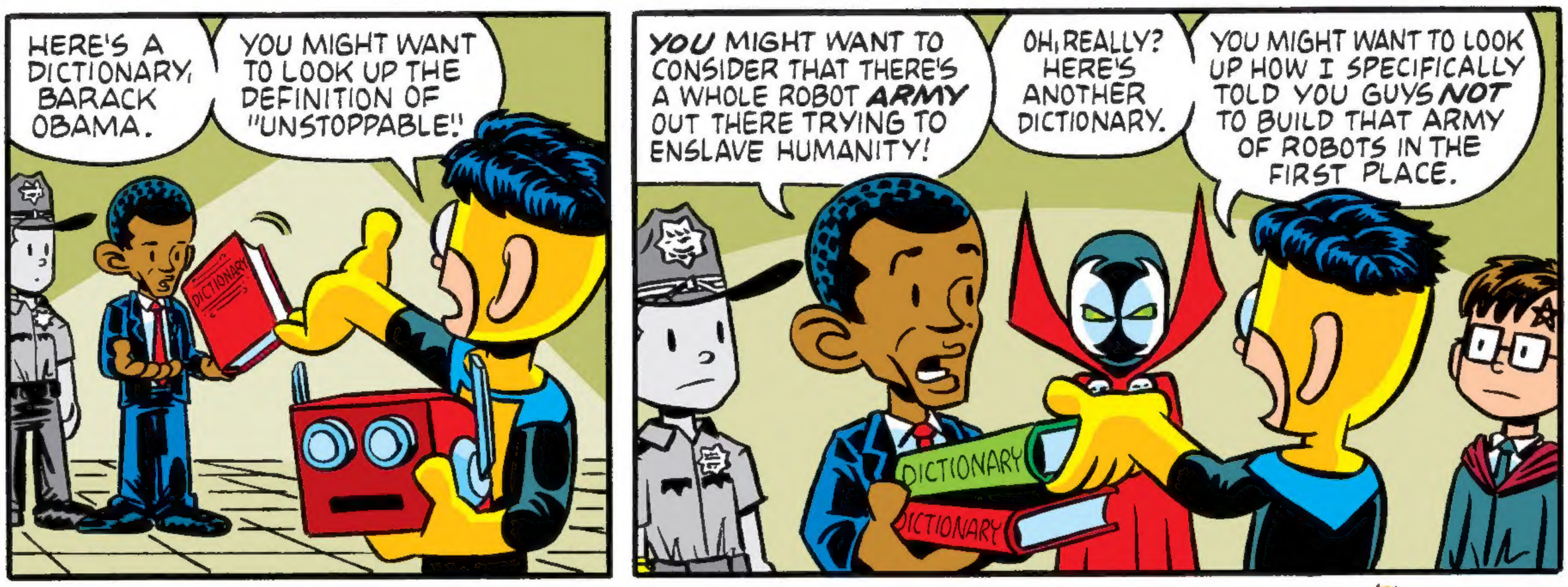
Big thanks to all of you for hanging in there with us. We apologize for all the delays on this series, it definitely, most certainly won't happen again. The delays... not a Guarding the Globe series... that will almost definitely happen again. What?

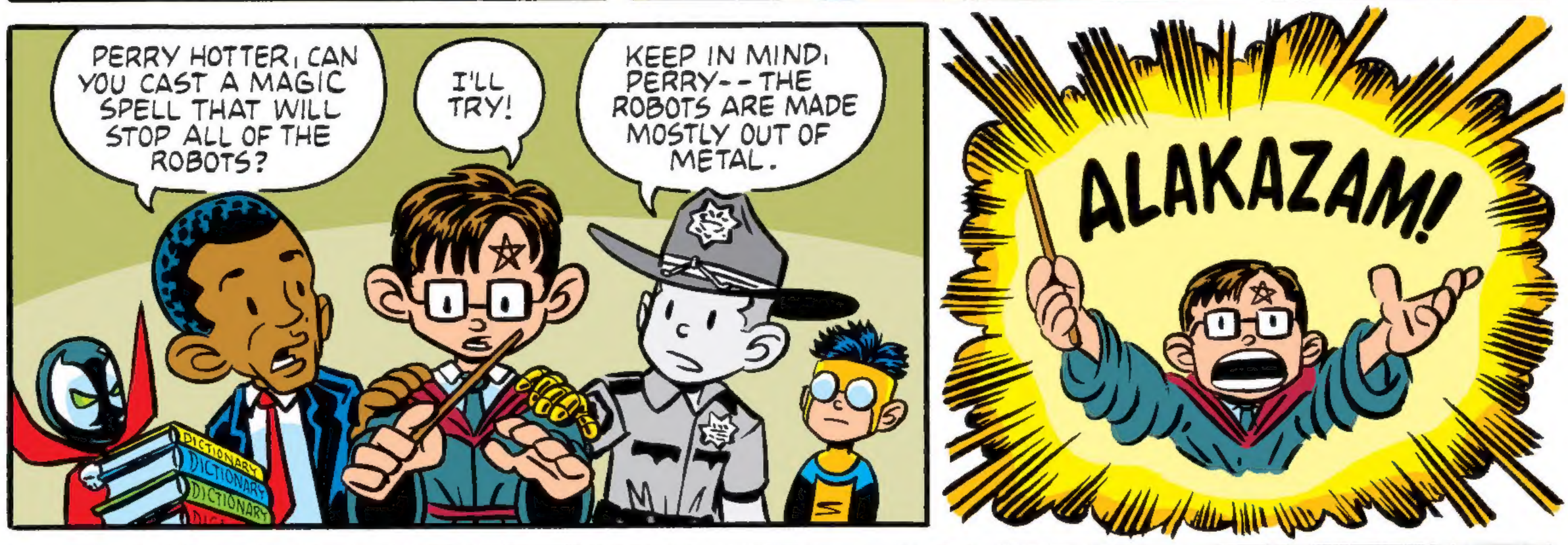
-Robert Kirkman

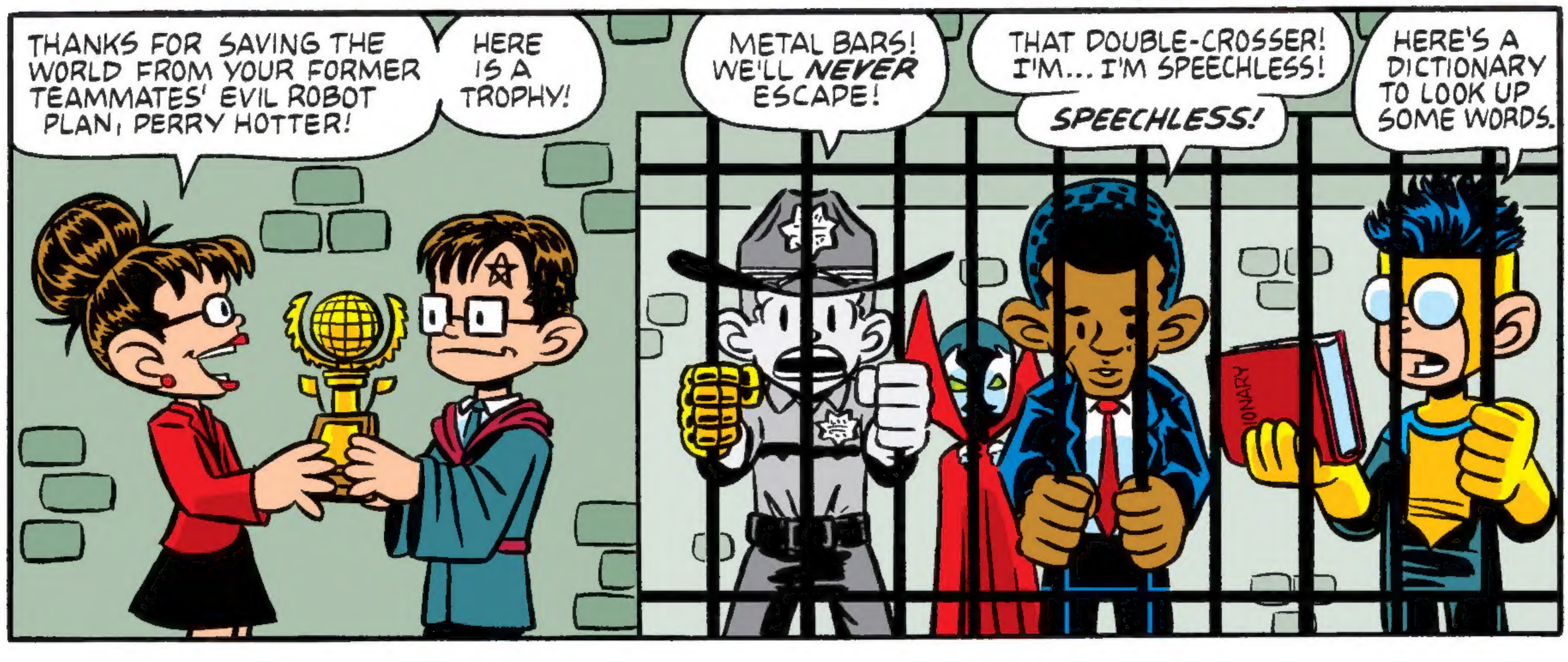
GUARDIAN GAGS

by Chris Giarrusso
www.chrisGcomics.com


BANG! BANG! BANG!
MY BULLETS WON'T STOP THEM! WHAT ARE THESE ROBOTS EVEN MADE OF? METAL?
YES! THEY'RE METAL! THEY'RE UNSTOPPABLE!
POW!


HERE'S A DICTIONARY, BARACK OBAMA.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK UP THE DEFINITION OF "UNSTOPPABLE!"
DICTIONARY
YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THAT THERE'S A WHOLE ROBOT ARMY OUT THERE TRYING TO ENSLAVE HUMANITY!
OH, REALLY? HERE'S ANOTHER DICTIONARY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK UP HOW I SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU GUYS NOT TO BUILD THAT ARMY OF ROBOTS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DICTIONARY
DICTIONARY


PERRY HOTTER, CAN YOU CAST A MAGIC SPELL THAT WILL STOP ALL OF THE ROBOTS?
I'LL TRY!
KEEP IN MIND, PERRY--THE ROBOTS ARE MADE MOSTLY OUT OF METAL.
DICTIONARY
DICTIONARY
DICTIONARY
ALAKAZAM!


THANKS FOR SAVING THE WORLD FROM YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES' EVIL ROBOT PLAN, PERRY HOTTER!
HERE IS A TROPHY!
METAL BARS! WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE!
THAT DOUBLE-CROSSER! I'M... I'M SPEECHLESS!
SPEECHLESS!
HERE'S A DICTIONARY TO LOOK UP SOME WORDS.
IONARY

OCTOBER 2011

FEEL BETTER NOW

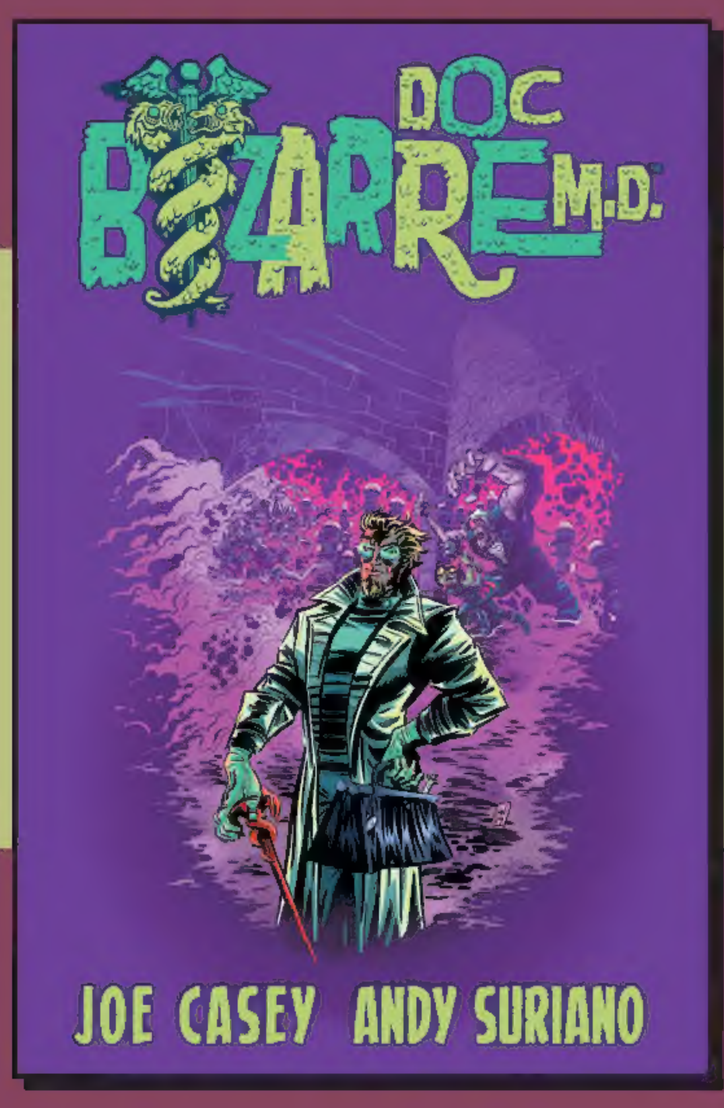
If you're a highly qualified psychologist in Los Angeles, the fake problem capital of the world, sometimes you get bored. And, sometimes, this means you screw with your patients. For the first time in three years, JONATHAN HICKMAN is writing and drawing a creator-owned comic. Known for the boundary-pushing stories like THE NIGHTLY NEWS and PAX ROMANA, this one-and-done book is the first of three PLUS! stories, will not be collected for over a year, and is intended to have a shelf life of several months.

XENOHOLICS #1

Are you addicted to aliens? Late night Encounters? Abductions? Probes? The XenoHolics are here to help! Because everyone thinks they're a bunch of nutcases, a support group that claims aliens abducted them try to prove that aliens are real. But that's much easier said than done and they find themselves caught up in not just ONE government conspiracy, but TWO. Oh, yeah and along the way they learn who is lying about being abducted… and who is telling the truth. Presenting a twisted new series about aliens and the crazy people who believe in them, by creators JOSHUA WILLIAMSON (Superman/Batman, DEAR DRACULA), and SETH DAMOOSE (I HATE GALLANT GIRL) with covers by DAN DUNCAN (TMNT).

THE LAST OF THE GREATS #1

There were seven, possessing the power of gods, and representing all that could be right with the world. But now... he is the Last. As humanity stands on the brink of annihilation, he is our only hope. And he hates us for what we've done. From the Eisner and Harvey Award-nominated writer of ECHOES, *Tumor*, and *Elk's Run*, comes a dynamic new take on how far mankind will stoop to survive.



DOC BIZARRE, M.D. HC

From monsters crippled with pneumonia or demons suffering from incontinence, only one man claims to possess the skills and the training to cure what ails them… DOC BIZARRE, M.D.! He'll make globe hopping house calls for sick creepers, medically challenged myths and ghouls at death's door! It's over-the-top, comedic horror from JOE CASEY and ANDY SURIANO!

CHECKLIST

- [ ] 27 SECOND SET #2
- [ ] AVENGELYNE #4
- [ ] BLUE ESTATE #6
- [ ] BUTCHER BAKER THE RIGHTEOUS MAKER #8
- [ ] CARBON GREY ORIGINS #1 (of 2)
- [ ] CBLDF LIBERTY ANNUAL 2011
- [ ] CHEW #21
- [ ] DARKNESS #94
- [ ] ELEPHANTMEN #36
- [ ] GODLAND #35
- [ ] GREEN WAKE #6
- [ ] HACK SLASH #9
- [ ] THE INFINITE #3
- [ ] INFINITE HORIZON #5 (of 6)
- [ ] INVINCIBLE #83
- [ ] MARKSMAN #3
- [ ] MORIARTY #5
- [ ] MORNING GLORIES #13
- [ ] NEAR DEATH #2
- [ ] PIGS #2
- [ ] RED WING #4 (of 4)
- [ ] REED GUNTHER #5
- [ ] SAVAGE DRAGON #174
- [ ] SEVERED #3 (of 7)
- [ ] SKULLKICKERS #12
- [ ] SPAWN #212
- [ ] THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE #1
- [ ] SUPER DINOSAUR #5
- [ ] THE WALKING DEAD HC VOL 7
- [ ] WITCHBLADE #149

The Third Degree: JUSTIN JORDAN

IMAGE COMICS' MONTHLY Q&A SESSION

Justin Jordan's work has appeared in more than a dozen comic book anthologies (Hard Words, Kagemano, Strange Consequences), along with being a three time competitor in DC's Zuda competition with Rumors of War, Junk and The Assignment. He lives in the wilds of Pennsylvania where he's occasionally mistaken for a sasquatch. He's not especially confident in his cover letter ability. His bloody new series with artist Tradd Moore, THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE, debuts October 5th.

What are you working on right now?
Right now, trying to find a colorist for another project. Which is one of the parts of the job I like least, because I don't see color well and it's actually pretty tricky to separate the coloring from the art. I'm lucky to have Felipe kicking buttocks on Luther Strode.

What's the best part of your job?
Well, I get to make stuff up, which I have to admit is pretty awesome. Actually, I wish I were a faster writer so that I could get to my new ideas faster, which is a good problem to have.

What's the worst part of your job?
I don't really like the project management aspect of it. This isn't an issue with Tradd and Felipe on Luther, but harassing people to make deadlines and firing folks, both of which I've had to do this week, are not things that I like to do and I would happily foist them off to someone else should the opportunity arise.

How did you first discover comics?
You know, I'm not entirely sure. I do know that I was into comics before I could read, and I actually learned to read pretty early so that I didn't have to keep dragooning family members into doing it for me.

I suspect I saw comics the first time at the grocery store or the convenience store with my Mom. The first comic book I can remember reading was *Popeye*.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
Writing. Comics doesn't yet pay my bills, so I do freelance writing, mostly for businesses. It's not hugely exciting, but it pays pretty well, and I can work in my pajamas.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
"Man, if he was really dead I was going to punch you!"

He was kidding. Probably.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?
You know, I've yet to work with an editor in comics, so I have no idea. The only thing I can think of is if I weren't getting paid on time, or worse, the artist wasn't getting paid on time. I'm pretty easy going otherwise.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
That's a tough question. I can see a bunch of different people from a bunch of different mediums in my stuff, and it changes from project to project. Looking at Luther Strode now, for instance, when I've been done for a few months, I can see some Quentin Tarantino, Elmore Leonard and Joss Whedon in it.

Oddly enough, there's a lot of Elmore Leonard and Robert Parker in my writing. I tend towards short, punchy dialogue and there are big stretches where the action is telling the story and I suspect it's because of them.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE. Hands down. I realize I've mentioned it a few times already, but it's the best thing I've ever done. It's not perfect, but rereading it, there's nothing in that I could have done better than I did it, which is pretty damn rare for an insecure writer type.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
Just one? I watch a ridiculous amount of the show *American Greed*, which is mostly about frauds and cons and is narrated by Stacy Keach. This probably wouldn't qualify as a guilty pleasure except that I probably watch four hours of it a week. That can't be healthy.

What was the last comic book you bought?
I bought a *Scalped* trade off Jason Aaron in Baltimore, I think. I haven't had time to make it to the shop since then.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Well I'm tall, hairy and massive, so probably Sweetums from *The Muppets*.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Diet Pepsi, the Internet and my car.

The Diet Pepsi is because I am a terrible, pathetic caffeine junky, and I'm too lazy to make coffee that often. The car and the Internet are because I live waaaaay the hell out in the middle of nowhere and they make me feel halfway connected to the actual world.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
Now, here's a question that will make me sound terribly boring. I need a stuffed snake to worship or something. Um…I have a bobcat skull I found when I was a kid? So that?

When was the last time you laughed out loud?
About five minutes ago. What can I say, I'm jolly.

What music are you listening to these days?
I'm not a big music guy, so it's usually whatever is on the radio. Like practically everyone else, I've really been enjoying Adele's new album. The new Foo Fighters is good for the gym, and I'm looking forward to the new Red Hot Chili Peppers album. Because I'm old, apparently.

What is your favorite film of all time?
This is one of those questions where the answer is going to change depending on what I've seen most recently. I find myself enjoying *Alien*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Bladerunner* more every time I watch them, which apparently means that if Tarantino and Scott ever team up my head will explode from the glee.

Who is your best friend?
I've had the same best friend since high school and we've managed to stay pretty close despite him having three (soon to be four) kids and living mostly thousands of miles away.

What is the worst advice you've ever received?
Take some time off before you go to college and work for a while. I didn't, but it would have been bad advice for me and I'm glad I didn't take it. College was great fun and exactly what I needed to be doing when I did it.

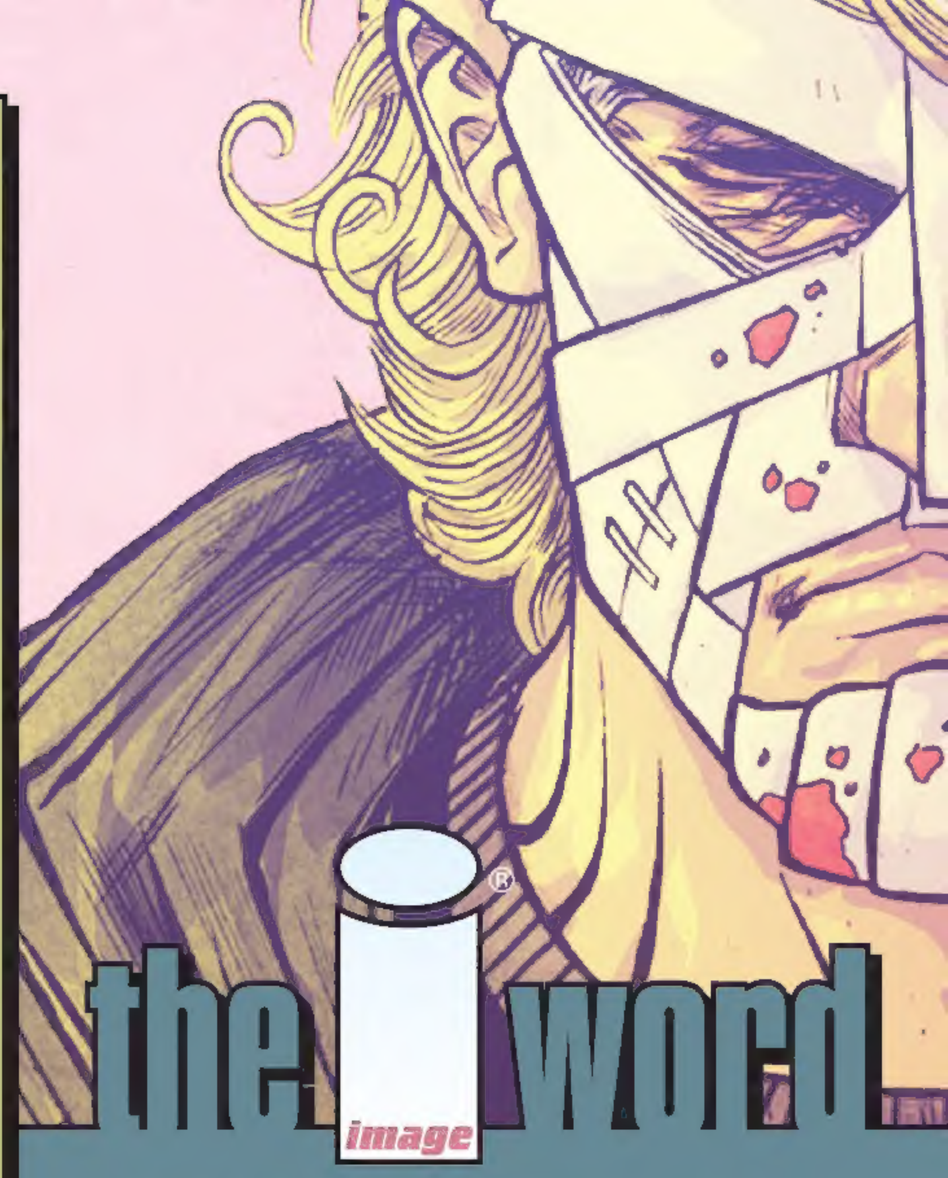
When was the last time you were truly frightened?
I did walk into my bathroom one night to be greeted by a spider the size of my hand, which caused me to leap backwards out of the bathroom, which is, I'm pretty sure, the only time I've ever leaped back from anything.

I'm arachnophobic, so it's was more than just being startled. I killed the heck of that spider and hung his body outside as a warning to the others, in case you were wondering.

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
I really admire what Warren Ellis has done, working in a whole bunch of genres within comics and trying new stuff with the form. I can't say how much he's influenced, although I'm sure he has, but I'd certainly love to have this career. Likewise, Jonathan Hickman, for essentially the same reasons.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
More readers. There are some great comics selling five or six thousand copies, which is ridiculous. I could probably find ten thousand people who have fetish for watching Tibetan midgets dance in refrigerator boxes, so there's no excuse for comics to be selling that little. There are a lot of people who would enjoy comics who never really read them, so I think we can reverse the downward trend.

What the world needs now is...
…love. Possibly from Tibetan midgets.



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Question of the Month

If you could work with any one creator on a new comic, who would it be?

"I don't know. Do you think Alan Moore reads these things?"

Dan Brereton
THE LAST BATTLE

"Warren Ellis -- he's a disturbing mad man. I'd like to work one more time with Alexandro Jodorowsky. Dean Yeagle. Mike Mignola. Guillermo del Toro. Harlan Ellison. Syd Mead. You see, I'm really easy to please..."

Axel Medellin
ELEPHANTMEN

"I'd love to do a fully-realized mini-series (at least) for Image with anyone I've already worked with on a short story in any of the first three NIGHTMARE WORLD TP collections."

Dirk Manning
NIGHTMARE WORLD

"Outside of my current awesome collaborator, I would say Warren Ellis. His ideas are so creative and he creates amazing characters and worlds."

Jason Howard
SUPER DINOSAUR

"There are too many great creators to pick just one. I've loved Phil Noto since INFINITE HORIZON and I'm constantly inspired by his work on Tumblr. I'd also love to work with Viktor Kalvachev. BLUE ESTATE shows he's not only doing the best covers in the business, but that he's truly brilliant at blending so many creators' visions."

Mark Sable
GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES, FEARLESS

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